



Hikes and Happenings

Spring 2010

- Blue Hills Reservation
- Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- Brook Farm Historic Site
- Chestnut Hill Reservation
- Cutler Park Reservation
- Elm Bank Reservation
- Hammond Pond Reservation
- Hancock Woods Reservation
- Lost Pond Reservation
- Quincy Quarries Historic Site
- Stony Brook Reservation
- Upper Charles River Reservation
- Upper Neponset River Greenway
- Wilson Mountain Reservation

Sunday March 7 1 pm

Wilson Mountain

Partners in Stewardship Hike

Meet at the Wilson Mountain parking lot on Rt. 135 in Dedham. Call 617-333-7404, ext. 101 for detailed directions. Join rangers from the DCR and the Trustees of Reservations on a moderate hike at Wilson Mountain in Dedham. Enjoy a scenic ramble as we meander through wetlands and hike among the hillsides of mountain laurel. We will discuss the reservation's past, present and future. Leashed dogs welcome. 1.5 hours

Saturday, March 13 & Sunday, March 14

10 am to 4 pm

Blue Hills Trailside Museum Maple Sugar Days

It's "sugarin" time in the Blue Hills!

Put on your boots and flannel shirt and join in the double fun on this two part special event. Your experience begins at the Trailside Museum where we will unlock the mysteries of maple sugaring. Then take a free ride on the Maple Express Trolley to visit the sugar shack at scenic Brookwood Farm. Watch clouds of steam rise from the bubbling sap. Sample real maple syrup. Enjoy games, music, and a warming fire down on the farm. Take the trolley back to Trailside to end the day- *how sweet it is!*

Activities for all ages.

Program admission:

\$5.00 Adults

\$3.00 Children Ages 3-12

Ages 2 and under free

Maple Sugar Days is a joint program of the DCR and Mass. Audubon Trailside Museum

For more information, please call (617) 698-1802 or (617) 333-0690

Saturday, March 20 1 pm

Signs of Spring

Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy.

Celebrate the start of spring on an easy stroll. We will be looking for skunk cabbage, mourning cloak butterflies and other early signs of spring. 1.5 hours

Sunday, March 28 7 am

Three Peaks Hike

Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton

Join a DCR ranger on an early morning 3 mile hike up and over some of the most scenic hilltops the Blue Hills Reservation has to offer. This fast paced hike will summit three peaks before the average person has breakfast! Jumpstart your day. 2 hours

Saturday, April 3 1 pm

Project Bluebird: Build a Home for the Birds

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 310 for registration and meeting place. Space is limited.

Build and "adopt" a Blue Bird box for our feathered friends in the Blue Hills Reservation. You build it and we will place it in the park. No need to be a master carpenter to enjoy this program. Tools and materials provided. Ages 8 and up. 1.5 hour

Saturday, April 17 1 pm

Kids Spring Fling: Come to your Senses

Meet at Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside Street in Milton.

It's time to get outside and enjoy some fresh air. Join the DCR rangers for an exploration of the senses. We'll enjoy the sights, smells, sounds and feel of the great outdoors on this interactive hike for families. 1.5 hours

Saturday, April 24

Park Serve Day

Blue Hills Reservation

9 am – 1 pm

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 213 to register. Join the DCR Blue Hills staff and the Friends of the Blue Hills to help maintain the trails or lend a hand in our park clean-up. Garden projects at Brookwood Community Farm as well.

Wilson Mountain Reservation

9 am – 1 pm Work Projects

Call 617-333-7404, ext. 101 to register.

Join the DCR and the Trustees of Reservations at scenic Wilson Mountain. We'll be cleaning up the woods and trimming back the trails. Please wear long pants and closed shoes for the work day. Refreshments provided.

Sunday, May 2 9 am

Blue Hills Skyline Hike

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 212 for registration and meeting place. Space is limited.

Join us for a rugged 8 mile trek along the Skyline Trail. Must be an experienced hiker. Sturdy hiking boots required. Bring lunch and a water bottle. We will car pool to our starting point. Ages 15 and up. 5-6 hours

Saturday, May 8 1 pm

Rockin' in the Park

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 213 for registration and meeting place.

Join a DCR ranger and Les Tyralla, a registered geologist as we explore the glacial features of Great Blue Hill, Learn the secrets of stone on this moderately strenuous hike over rocky terrain. Unlock the mystery of what makes the Blue Hills blue! Sturdy footgear required. 1.5 hours

Saturday, May 8 9 am - 1 pm

Trailwork with Friends of the Blue Hills

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 213 for registration and meeting place.

Join the Friends of Blue Hills Trail Crew on a variety of projects in the reservation. Meet new friends and learn a new skill. We provide the tools and training, you supply the energy and enthusiasm. Projects include brushing back trails and dirt from drainage ditches. All projects will offer a hike to the work sites. Wear long pants and gloves. Water, snacks and lunch provided.

Saturday, May 15

10 am - 4 pm

Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center Open House & Kite Festival

Things are looking up atop Great Blue Hill! Enjoy the amazing view, fascinating history and fun activities at the oldest continually operating Weather Observatory in the country. Join us for an open house and fun festival for all ages. Free admission to events. Donation for materials for some activities. For details and parking information, call (617) 696-0562. Rain or shine. Learn more at www.bluehill.org

Saturdays,

May 15 and May 22

9 am - 1 pm

Blue Hills Weed Busting

Call 617-698-1802, ext. 213 for registration and meeting place or write biodiversity@Friendsofthebluehills.org

Want to learn to help native plants and animals survive? Want to meet others who care about protecting our natural environment? Join the Friends of the Blue Hills and DCR for one morning – or more – to help remove invasive species in the Blue Hills. You will help pull plants that are disrupting the habitat and health of the park's native plants, animals and insects.

Sunday, May 23 10 am - 2 pm

Mountain Bike Discovery Day: Explore the Blue Hills

Take exit 3 off Route 93 and follow signs to Houghton's Pond Picnic Site #5, Blue Hill River Road, Milton.

Perfect your pedaling power with the DCR Rangers, Blue Hills TrailWatch and the New England Mountain Bike Association. Enjoy guided rides for all ages and abilities. Skills clinics throughout the day. Fun obstacles and challenges along the way. You must bring your own bike and helmets are required. For more info, call 617- 698-1802, ext.212

All programs are free!
(Except Maple Sugar Days)



Blue Hills Adult Walking Club

Blue Hills Reservation & South Region Sites

Spring 2010

Welcome

The Blue Hills Adult Walking Club is a group of adults that meets on a weekly basis for recreational walks. The purpose of these walks is social exercise. There is no fee to join and everyone 16 or older is welcome. Walks are normally 2 to 5 miles.

The terrain can vary:

- ▲ EASY (mostly level terrain)
- ▲▲ MODERATE (hilly terrain)
- ▲▲▲ DIFFICULT (strenuous & steep)

Walks will be lead by a park ranger or a Walking Club volunteer leader. Occasionally, the Walking Club meets at other DCR sites or car pools to sites within the Blue Hills Reservation. The rangers recommend wearing hiking boots and bringing drinking water on all hikes.

Enjoy the programs and keep walking!

March

Saturday, March 6 1:00 pm



Moderate walk, some hills, 4 miles. Old Rte. 128 to Beech Hollow and Doe Hollow. Return via the green dot trail. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton.

Sunday, March 21 1:00 pm



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3 miles. Wolcott Path to Wildcat Notch and return via Halfway Path. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton.

Saturday, March 27 1:00 pm



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Walk the green dot loop in the Great Blue Hill section via Wolcott Path. Meet at the Trailside Museum north parking lot at 1904 Canton Ave. in Milton.

April

Sunday, April 4 1:00 pm



Moderate hike, 3 miles. Walk the Summit Road to the top of Great Blue and loop around Eliot Circle. Return via the red dot and green dot trails. Meet at the Trailside Museum north parking lot at 1904 Canton Ave. in Milton.

Saturday, April 10 1:00 pm



Moderate walk, some hilly terrain, 4 miles. Walk from St. Moritz Pond to Sawcut Notch, return on Indian Camp Path. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard St. in Quincy.

Sunday, April 18 **1:00 pm**



Easy walk, 2 miles. Loop around Houghton's Pond and old Rte. 128. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton.

Sunday, April 25 **1:00 pm**



Easy walk, with some hills, 2 miles. Walk around Tucker Hill on the green dot trail. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton.

May

Saturday, May 1 **1:00 pm**



Moderate walk, hilly terrain, 3.5 miles. Wolcott Path to Breakneck Ledge to Chestnut Run and Border Path, return via Wildcat Notch and Coon Hollow. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St. in Milton.

Sunday, May 9 **1:00 pm**



Moderate walk, some hills, 4 miles. Loop around Ponkapoag Pond on the green dot trail. Meet at the Ponkapoag Golf Course parking lot at 2173 Washington St. in Canton.

Sunday, May 16 **1:00 pm**



Easy walk, 2 miles. Follow the Green Dot Loop. Meet at Wilson Mountain Reservation parking lot on Rte. 135. Take Exit 17 off Rte. 128 and head east on Rte. 135. Wilson Mountain is ½ mile down on the right just before the Northeastern athletic fields in Dedham.

Saturday, May 22 **1:00 pm**



Moderate walk, 3+ miles. Walk the St. Moritz Pond green dot loop. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard St. in Quincy.

Things to know before you go

- Wear sturdy footgear
- Carry drinking water
- Dress in layers for maximum comfort.
We will hike unless the weather is severe.
- If weather conditions are questionable, please call the reservation headquarters at 617-698-1802 ext. 3
- For questions regarding accessibility, please call the park rangers at 617-698-1802.